

Quiet Time

...A Voice of Our Community

Message From the Chairperson

By: Rachel Moore

I would like to welcome everyone to a new year at the Children's Centre. A special welcome is extended to families who are new to the Centre this year. As you have probably already discovered, the Children's Centre offers more than preschool to our children. Over the years I suspect I have learned as much about being a parent as my children have learned about being children! I hope that you all find the strong sense of community and caring that we all cherish.

New Board Members

We have several new board members this year: Joanne Ellis (Hazen and Becky's mom) joins as the Special Events Coordinator; Lisa Pinhorn (Sophie Doyle's mom) and Andrea Cnudde (Kirin Adhopia's mom) are the new Fundraising co-Coordinators; Elizabeth Siegel (Jacob's mom) is the new Secretary; David Martino (Sam's dad) takes up the role as Assistant Treasurer; Elizabeth Zedel (Alida and Fern's mom) is the new Communications Coordinator. Board members are responsible

not only for their individual duties, but also participate in making important decisions that affect The Children's Centre. Thanks for joining the team! (See page 4 for a complete Board of Directors list.)

New MW pm Program

We are very excited to introduce a new program at the Children's Centre this year. Our Monday-Wednesday afternoon preschool has been expanded to allow 2 year olds to attend along side their older siblings. Our license allows for 8 preschoolers and 4 two-year olds. This new program was developed to meet the demands of our parents who wanted to send both their children at the same time. The children all start together, and then separate into two different age groups for the rest of the session. Special thanks to Faye who works very hard to switch the equipment around when the two groups change places.

Building Purchase

An important initiative of the Board of Directors this year is to purchase our building. Provided we can agree on a reasonable price, we are hoping to purchase the building from former Children's Centre parent

Wendy Williams. Wendy has kindly rented us the building for many years, although her children have long since grown up, and she herself has moved to British Columbia.

Vacation Policy

The Board of Directors has recently passed a new policy to accommodate the needs of families going on extended vacations. If you are gone for at least one month, and no more than two months, you have the option of paying 65% of your fee, and retaining your spot.

Drop-in Policy

The Children’s Centre developed a new drop-in policy last year, and we are happy to continue it this year. This policy allows a child already attending the Centre to attend another program, provided there is space that day. The fee is \$20 per 3 hours session, payable at the time. The child must be the correct age for the program. Advance notice must be given to the teaching staff, preferably 24 hours. As all of our preschool programs are presently full, space will only be available if another child is absent.

Enrollment

I am pleased to announce that all of our preschool programs are presently full, with a waitlist. We do have some space for two year olds in the nursery program, and would really like to fill them if we can. If you know of anyone

who might be interested, please have them contact us.

Fundraising Report

By Lisa Pinhorn

Hello from the Fundraising Committee!

This year we have set a minimum fundraising goal of \$8,000 for the Children’s Centre. The money raised goes directly into the daily operation of the centre and is vital for us to maintain the building and help pay our very dedicated staff. In order to reach this goal we need help from all families – you may be asked to sell tickets, help at the garage sale, bake cookies or collect donations.

The committee has set out a plan for the school year and we will need the participation of all families to help make this year’s fundraising efforts a success! Here are the pre-Christmas fundraising events:

• **Subway Subs Coupons**

This, our first event of the year, is complete. We raised \$320. Thanks to all of the families who participated.

• **Garage Sale**

The 2nd annual Children’s Centre Garage Sale is happening December 2nd. This was a very successful fundraising event last year. We made money and had a fun day of meeting and connecting with families. We are already a step ahead of last year as many unsold items from last year

are still in storage at the sale location. We will start collecting items soon, so don’t throw away anything that might sell – we will take anything from toys to teacups!

Last year we made a lot of money from the bake sale table, so this year we will be asking families to provide some home baked cookies, cakes or pies. We also hope to have an item on which we can sell raffle tickets – maybe a Christmas basket, piece of art, children’s books, DVD’s - anything that would be attractive to make people spend one extra loonie.

To help make this event run smoothly, the committee will be asking for help with the following tasks:

- Transportation of items to the garage sale location
- Set up of items the afternoon and evening before the sale
- People to help the day of the sale
- Donations of baked goods
- Coffee and snack runners (last year we were all very hungry by the end of the day)

• **Cooperative Toys**

Each year before Christmas the Children’s Centre sells Cooperative Board games. A percentage of the sales go directly back to the Children’s Centre. These are games that offer play materials that nurture sharing and caring. These

games help children play together, not against each other. There are a wide variety of games that are designed for a range of ages. They are great Christmas gift ideas! For further details of the types of games available check out www.familypastimes.com. Watch for further information on this sale.

• **Silly Portrait**

Former Children’s Centre parent, Board member and professional photographer Greg Locke has generously offered to help us in our fundraising efforts. On Saturday, November 25th we will be hold a ‘Silly Portrait Day’. Just like school photo day - but children can wear an elephant nose, a funny hat, or any interesting costume they like. We also hope to take a group photo as a keepsake of the 2006/07 school year. These individual and group photos can then be purchased by parents. Mark the date in your calendars!! The fundraising committee will be sending out more details soon.

Staff Report

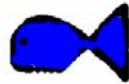
By Diane Angel

Welcome to a new term at The Children’s Centre!

It looks like we will have an exciting and interesting year, as we have so many children with lots of ideas and great imaginations. This is so helpful

when it comes to planning our programs and activities,

We have a new pet at The Centre. His name is Blueberry and he is a very colourful Beta fish. Several children have been interested in helping feed Blueberry and they spend some time each day visiting with him.



There are a few housekeeping issues we need to mention:

Snack Time. Thank you to all of you who bring in the wonderful snacks. Snack time is special for the children – it provides opportunities to chat, to develop helping skills and to practice social skills. Please keep in mind that we are a **peanut-free** centre and we do not serve popcorn, raisins, trail mix and gum. Also, some groups have a child with allergies (the list is posted on the bulletin board next to the snack list). If you are sending in something homemade, please include a list of ingredients. Also, we can’t serve food from a bakery because it may have come into contact with nuts.

Spare Clothes. Please send a change of clothes with your child/children in a bag with your child’s name on it. These items should include pants, top, underwear and socks – they come in handy if there is a spill or other accident.

Absence. Please let us know when your child/children will be absent. We need to know when a child has a communicable illness. Also, children miss their friends when they aren’t here and it helps if they know why.

Artwork. You may find that your child is not concerned about taking home his or her art projects. This is not unusual, since many children are interested in the process and not the resulting product. If you feel you would like to take home artwork, check the “art boxes” in the upstairs playroom in the area where the painting are hung to dry. The artwork will be kept there for about a week.

Records. Some parents have not yet given us a photocopy of their child’s immunization record. We need this information as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please ask one of the staff.

And finally, a big thank you to all of our families who helped with our themes *All About Me* (by bringing in photographs) and *Farmers’ Market* (by providing the wonderful produce). Your help and support is much appreciated.

If anyone wishes to talk with us at length, please let us know and we will set aside a time that is mutually convenient.

Thanks,

Rhonda, Sandra, Faye & Diane

Never-Fail Play Dough Recipe

Here is a great play dough recipe. It is no fail and takes just a few minutes to make.

- 2 1/2 cups of flour
- 2 pkgs unsweetened Kool-Aid
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 cups boiling water
- 3 tblsp oil

Mix dry ingredients together, add water and oil. Stir ingredients just a little. When the mixture is cool enough to put your hands in, kneed it well. Store in an airtight bag.

Reminders / Notices

Please remember that no hot liquids are permitted in our playrooms. An accident can happen so quickly.

As rainy and (soon!) snowy weather approaches, we ask you to remember to take off your boots at the entrance. It certainly helps to keep the

floors dry.

When you take off your child's boots, please carry them to the coat area where they can be placed in the boot trays.

We go outside most days in the preschool programs. Please remember to send snow pants, mittens, hats etc. with your child.

We are looking forward to an active, exciting winter term and we hope you and your child (children) are as well.

The Children's Centre Board of Directors 2006 – 2007

Chairperson	Rachel Moore	rachel_moore@warp.nfld.net	754-3610
Vice-Chairperson	Diane Hollett	diane@hollettconsulting.com	747-8321
Secretary	Elizabeth Siegel	bizsiegel@nf.sympatico.ca	753-1381
Treasurer	Lana Littlejohn	lana@nfcontainers.com	754-5872
Assistant Treasurer	David Martino	davidmartino@hotmail.com	753-1409
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Enrollment Coordinator	Tish Dooley	tishdooley@hotmail.com	579-5644
Volunteer Coordinator	Chantal Rodgers	srodgers@nfld.com	
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	Andrea Cnudde	acnudde@gmail.com	754-6752
Maintenance Coordinator	Kristy Piercey	KristyPiercey@hcssjr.nf.ca	576-7516
Staff Liaison	Diane Angel	the_angels@nl.rogers.com	

School year Holidays and Closures

Remembrance Day

School is closed Monday, November 13th

Christmas Holidays:

Last day of school is Friday, December 22nd

School is closed from Monday, December 25th to Tuesday January 2nd (inclusive)

First day back is Wednesday, January 3rd

Easter Holidays/ Spring Break:

Last day of school is Thursday, April 5th

School is closed from Friday, April 6th to Friday, April 13th (inclusive)

First day back is Monday, April 16th

Victoria Day

School is closed Monday, May 21st

Summer Holidays

Last day of school is Friday, June 22nd